

Subject line: Medina, Domingo & New Haven - SB4 -pro with Amendments

I would like to thank co- chairs, Representative Lemar, Senator Haskell, vice chairs - Senator Cassano and Representative Sims and ranking members, Representative Carney and Senator Somers for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB-4 - an act concerning the Connecticut clean air act.

My name is Domingo Medina. I am a resident of New Haven and a small business owner called Peels and Wheels Composting LLC. We use bikes and electrical bikes as part of our vision and our business model. I directly understand the value of electrical bikes, for commuting, for working, for mitigating environmental pollution and for the overall quality of life in my city.

I am reaching out to highly encourage you to cosponsor Connecticut SB-4, *AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT CLEAN AIR ACT- To reduce carbon emissions by expanding public and private utilization of electric vehicles in Connecticut to protect human health and the environment.*

As you may already know, New Haven with Bridgeport, Hartford, Stamford and Waterbury has one of the highest incidences of asthma and pulmonary cancer in the State with many high cost of acute care and hospitalizations. Moreover, New Haven has many Environmental Justice (Ej) communities where 30% or more of the population lives below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) as well as low- or moderate-income communities where there are people that make 50% or less or between 50% and 80% than the Average Median Income for an area respectively. In this regard anything that we can do to improve the quality of our air and provide equitable opportunities can go a long way to help in minimizing this environmental burden for the city and particularly for the most vulnerable populations.

Having an ebike rebate would create an opportunity for more transportation equity for more people and even small businesses to adopt and afford Ebikes for their transportation needs. This can result in a larger biking community that will certainly reduce significantly GHG emissions and air pollution by cars and its human health related issues and improve the overall quality of life in our cities and towns.

We are asking for several amendments to the SB-4 bill language- the first is to increase the proposed cap on eligible bicycles from \$2,000 to *at least* \$3,000 to be able to include more of the car replacing electric cargo bikes and the inventory typically sold by local bike shops. The second is to add two seats to the advisory committee - one for a bicycle organization or bicycle shops representative and for the PURA chair. We would like to see the amount of the rebate increased for [EJ communities](#) and LMI individuals from \$500 to *at least* \$1,000.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Domingo Medina

496 Whitney Ave Apt 3C New Haven CT 06511